

R E M A R K S

Applicant has carefully considered the above identified Office Action, and in response thereto is addressing each issue raised by the examiner in the remarks hereinbelow. In this regard, applicant is amending claim 1; canceling without prejudice claims 6 - 11; and adding claims 16 - 26.

Claim Rejection 35 USC 102(b)

Applicant has amended claim 1 by adding claim 6 thereto according to the allowable subject matter section. Claims 6 - 11 have been canceled without prejudice, therefore the rejection concerning claim 7 is moot. All claims dependent upon a newly allowable base claim are also allowable. The Borgato '635 patent does not teach or suggest a latch rod having a substantially vertical orientation.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant agrees with examiner that claims 3 - 6 and 8 - 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

C O N C L U S I O N

It is respectfully submitted that applicant has responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this application, and this application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, applicant has made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in this Office Action as well as statutory requirements. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter this amendment, allow the claims, and pass this application on to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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